PT 2 of 3 SCS

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NM 9 JAN 197

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Department of Justice
Washington 20530

EXCISE

December 30, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY John Simms DATE 2-26-81
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Attached is a copy of a letter from [redacted] E B6
of [redacted] along with a copy of our reply. E B6

Because [redacted] indicates that United States E B6
citizens are being held in bondage in Georgetown, Guyana, we are forwarding this information to you for whatever action you deem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

Benjamin R. Civiletti
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

Attachments

By: Robert L. Keuch
Robert L. Keuch
Deputy Assistant Attorney Gener
Criminal Division

pT 2013 SCS

[redacted] E B6

Dec. 2, 1977.

DEC 13 9 49 AM '77
DEPT OF JUSTICE
MAIL ROOM

Dear Mr. Griffin Bell,

I've heard you like to do all you can for the people. Bell, Pastor Jim Jones, of S.F., People's Temple, is now ~~off~~ stationed in Guyana, So. Amer. (George Town).

This man has my love one and other's love ones held in bondage over there.

All I ask of you, is ~~that~~ if you would help us. Please look into 09-12-0 investigate on this matter. A lot of people and myself will be waiting appreciate it.

Sincerely,

[redacted] E B6

RECEIVED
DEC 15 1977
CRIMINAL DIVISION

DEC 21 19 REC'D
CRIMINAL SECTION CRIME SEC.

PT 2 of 3 SCS

BRC:ALH:AFN:ajw
109-12-0

[redacted] E. 136

Dear [redacted] E. 136

Your letter of December 6, 1977, to the Attorney General, concerning a Pastor Jim Jones, has been referred to the Criminal Division.

In recent years the Department of Justice has received numerous complaints from the distressed parents of members of various religious sects, alleging that their adult children are the victims of "brainwashing" by leaders of these groups. Typically, the parents allege that new members are subjected to intensive indoctrination accompanied by inadequate amounts of food and sleep with the result that they become "programmed" to obey the wishes and commands of the sect leaders, and cease thinking for themselves.

Initially, I would like to point out that the First Amendment's protection of religious freedom is not limited to the traditional and well established religions. This protection applies to all religions and embraces the right to maintain religious beliefs which are rank heresy to followers of traditional faiths. In view of these constitutional protections, the Department of Justice cannot conduct a general inquiry into the activities of any religious group. Any investigation must be based on an allegation of a violation of Federal law.

In your letter, you allege that a loved one and others are being held in bondage in Georgetown, Guyana by Pastor Jim Jones. This allegation, by itself, does not indicate a violation of Federal law. However, if you are in possession of any additional information which might indicate a Federal violation, I urge you to furnish this information to the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Since your letter indicates that United States citizens are being held against their will in a foreign country, I am forwarding a copy of your letter to the Department of State.

I hope this information will be of some assistance to you.

Sincerely,

BENJAMIN R. CIVILETTI
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

By:
ALFRED L. HANTMAN, Chief
General Crimes Section